

REPORT OF THE SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON SURGERY OF THE TEXAS MEDICAL ASSOCIATION. Presented at the annual meeting at Dallas, April 27, 1886. GEORGE CUPPLES, M.D., Chairman and Reporter.

This is a condensed statistical report, covering the work of one hundred and thirty-eight different surgeons in the state of Texas, and includes 4,293 operations. These are classified under fourteen heads, a synoptical résumé of each class is also given, and a summary of this synopsis in addition is furnished. This latter table is as follows:

SUMMARY OF OPERATIONS; RECOVERIES AND DEATHS IN EACH CLASS.

Number.		Operations	Recoveries.	Deaths.	Ratio of Recoveries.	Ratio of Deaths.
1	Amputations and Disarticulations	764	596	108	84 65	15 34
2	Resections in Contiguity and in Continuity	109	107	2	98 16	1 83
3	Ligation of Arteries	75	64	11	85 33	14 66
4	Tumors, noteworthy for Size, Site, Character, etc.	95	84	11	88 42	11 57
5	Operations involving Head and Neck	289	235	54	81 31	18 68
6	Operations involving Thorax	162	143	19	88 27	11 72
7	Operations involving Abdomen	242	212	30	87 60	12 39
8	Operations involving Rectum and Anus	469	465	4	99 14	0 85
9	Operations involving Male genital & Urin'y Orgs.	695	657	38	94 53	5 46
10	Operations involving Female " "	851	797	54	93 65	6 34
11	Operations involving—A, Bone ; B, Joints	95	83	11	87 68	11 07
12	Plastic Operations	43	42	1	97 67	2 32
13	Operations on Organs of Special Sense	180	180	0	100 00	0
14	Miscellaneous Operations	284	277	7	97 56	2 43
General Total,		4293	3943	350	91 84	8 15

Of these 2,080 were major operations, with 331 deaths (15.91 per cent.), and 2,213 were minor operations, with 19 deaths.

The following table of serious wound-diseases and accidents that complicated these operations is of special value for the purposes of comparison with the statistics of the same sort derived from the experience of crowded city hospitals under strict antiseptic régime.

SUMMARY OF CASES OF SECONDARY HEMORRHAGE, TETANUS, GANGRENE, PYÆMIA, SEPTICÆMIA AND ERYSPIELAS, WITH RATIO OF RECOVERIES AND DEATHS.

	Total Operations.	Number of Cases.	Recoveries.	Deaths.	Ratio of Recoveries.	Ratio of Deaths.	Ratio deaths to total No. of operations.
Secondary Hæmorrhage		38	30	8	78 94	21 05	0 18
Tetanus		14	2	12	14 28	85 81	0 27
Gangrene		10	5	5	50 00	50 00	0 11
Pyæmia		7	0	7	0 00	100 00	0 16
Septicaemia		11	1	10	9 09	90 90	0 23
Erysipelas		13	9	4	69 23	30 76	0 09
Total,	4293	93	47	46	50 53	49 46	1 07

In the matter of anaesthetics, chloroform was used in 3,179 instances, ether in 122 instances, and a mixture of the two in 132 instances. One death from chloroform is reported. In twelve instances alarming symptoms developed, not terminating fatally, that is, in one case out of every 266 where chloroform was given. Of the few cases in which ether alone was given, while no deaths are reported, in three instances, or one in every 41, alarming symptoms occurred. Neither death nor alarming symptoms are reported in connection with the cases in which the mixture of the two agents was employed.

Among the more important individual operations there are recorded eight disarticulations at the hip-joint, all required on account of gunshot wounds except one, which was for a railroad injury. Four of these were primary operations, and these all died. Four were secondary operations, and these all recovered. Of thirteen abdominal hysterectomies for carcinoma, one only recovered. Of five vaginal hysterectomies, four recovered. One hundred and nineteen laparotomies of all kinds are reported, with forty-nine deaths. Fifty herniotomies with thirteen deaths; one hundred and thirty-nine lithotomies in males with eighteen deaths, five in females, with one death. Ninety-six tracheotomies for foreign bodies with three deaths; fifty-one for membranous or diphtheritic croup, with forty deaths.

As the reporter very justly says, this report gives the hard every-day work of surgeons, not in well-appointed hospitals, supplied with every means and appliance that modern science and the marvellous ingenuity of the age have placed at his disposal, but under the most difficult

circumstances, deprived even of necessary instruments, so that in some instances amputations have been done in a negro cabin with a bowie knife and a carpenter's saw.

The report is of great interest and value. The immense amount of labor involved in its compilation can only be appreciated by those who have themselves been engaged in like work. The committee hope that this report will be the starting point and model for annual reports hereafter. We sincerely join in this sentiment, and add the wish that the profession of Texas may long be able to avail themselves of the same industrious hand and patient enthusiasm which has accomplished this first report.

L. S. PILCHER.